

REMARKS

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the above-identified application prior to examination.

Claims 1-19 are present in the above-captioned application and have been subjected to restriction under 35 U.S.C. § 121. Specifically, the Official Action avers that the Examples 1-9 listed in the specification are separate species. In this regard, the Examiner requires the election of a single species and the identification of the claims readable thereon

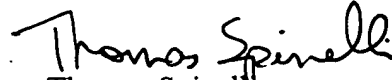
In response to the Examiner's requirement for restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the subject matter of Example 7 to which Figures 17-23 are concerned. Claims 4, 6, 10, 11, 12, 13, and 17 have been amended to change their dependency from claims "1 or 2" to claim --1--. Thus, as amended, the species of Example 7 is readable on claims 1, 4, 6-13, and 17.

Applicant reserves the right under 35 U.S.C. § 121 to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected subject matter in this application.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **"Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."**

It is respectfully requested that the above amendments be entered before an action on the merits is issued. In view of the foregoing, an examination on the merits of the elected claims, at an early date, is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas Spinelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "T" and "S".

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TS:cm
Enclosure (Version with Markings to Show Changes Made)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims have been amended as follows:

4. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said sensitivity control means is controlled based on any of a designation signal output from a designating means, an information signal fed from a connected endoscope and representing a feature of the endoscope, a movement information signal output from said light source unit, a signal representing a driving condition for said solid-state imaging device, and an output signal of said signal processing unit.

6. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein at least one of the number of pulses exhibited by a pulsating signal to be applied to said solid-state imaging device, and the waveform of the pulse is set for said sensitivity control means.

10. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein the information representing a feature of a connected endoscope with which said sensitivity control means may be controlled is input at an input means.

11. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said signal processing means includes a means that when an output signal of said solid-state imaging device is lower than a set voltage level, amplifies a gain to be given to the signal.

12. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said sensitivity control means is included in said signal processing unit, and the sensitivity of

said solid-state imaging device is set based on a type of endoscope or a property of each solid-state imaging device.

13. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said light source unit includes a light level adjustment mechanism realized with an iris diaphragm.

17. (Amended) An endoscope system according to Claim 1 [or 2], wherein said endoscope is of a field-sequential type.